



MEDIA RELEASE

Peter McGauran, MP

Federal Member for Gippsland

28 JULY 2003

\$1 MILLION SUSTAINABLE REGIONS FUNDING FOR GIPPSLAND

National Party Member for Gippsland, Peter McGauran, today announced \$1 million in Sustainable Regions funding for seven Gippsland projects.

Mr McGauran said the projects were the result of dedicated work by committed local people taking initiative and working towards the region's long-term future.

"These projects cover a wide range of industries, and will help sustain a prosperous and dynamic Gippsland," Mr McGauran said.

They include funding for:

- the establishment of a pelleting facility that will support the competitiveness of a number of livestock industries in Gippsland (\$150,000);
- an extension to a practical skills teaching centre in Orbost (\$151,641);
- the development of touring routes and professional development for the Gippsland tourism industry (\$300,000);
- commercialisation of a Permit Administration System which supports efficient safe access to work in large industrial plants (\$170,000); and
- an assessment of the potential of radial sawing technology to contribute to a sustainable timber industry (\$65,000).

"Other projects to be funded relate to training in civil construction and organic agriculture."

Mr McGauran said the projects were great examples of the Federal Government working in partnership with local communities to build a stronger Gippsland.

"The benefits will flow throughout the region as these projects target major economic and social issues to help build a stronger future," Mr McGauran said.

The funding was recommended by the Sustainable Gippsland Advisory Committee and brings to \$8 million the total funding provided to the region so far under the Sustainable Regions programme.

(Details of the projects are attached)

Projects approved for funding

Further Information: Fiona McDonald (Mr McGauran's office) 03 9639 3199, 0419 622 915

PROJECT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	FUNDING ALLOCATED (GST-inclusive)
South Gippsland Stockfeeds Multi-species Food Pelleting Facility	Establishment of a \$2.5m pelleting facility to cater for the feed needs of all types of land and aquatic livestock. The project has the potential to underpin the competitiveness of a number of livestock industries in Gippsland.	\$150,000
Orbost Community Education and Practical Skills Centre	The centre, currently under construction, is to be extended with Sustainable Regions funding. The centre will target the needs of 'students at risk' and adult-reskilling. The total cost of the centre is approximately \$500,000.	\$151,641
Building Sustainable Tourism in Gippsland	This \$675,000 project to be undertaken by Phillip Island and Gippsland Discovery Tourism Inc seeks to promote a whole of region approach to the development of tourism and touring routes in Gippsland.	\$300,000
Sage Technology Permit Administration System	This \$226,880 project is to commercialise the Sage Technology Permit Administration System which manages permits and tagging in heavy industrial plants. It will create further employment opportunities in the power industry, fosters the development of the IT industry and contributes to the retention of highly skilled people in the region.	\$170,000
Radial Timber Australia Radial Sawing Technology	A \$121,000 technical and commercial assessment of the potential of radial sawing technology to contribute to a sustainable timber industry. This technology may be one of the viable options for the Gippsland timber industry, which is undergoing a major restructuring process.	\$65,000
Civil Construction Training	Provision of training in the civil construction industry in East Gippsland where these skills are currently in short supply. The \$158,500 project from Bairnsdale Adult Community Education targets displaced timber workers, young job seekers, and unqualified workers in the industry.	\$115,500
Organic Outreach Education	The Organic Agriculture Association provides training to assist farmers diversify their farms and produce organic products. The Association is to take relevant training units to people in East Gippsland who are unable to attend their Bairnsdale Centre. The total project cost is \$71,550.	\$14,560